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OPERATIONS GROUP FILE

SENSITIVE

EXCERPT FROM D/FBIS DAILY LOG - 11 December 1979

1. SENSITIVE. I attended an SCC meeting chaired by Dr. Brzezinski at the White House. I was present to provide support for Mr. Carlucci who represented the Agency. At issue were VOA and RFE/RL proposals to improve U.S. broadcasting in vernacular languages to the Muslim world, including the Soviet Central Asian Republics. Brzezinski opened the meeting stating the President's displeasure with USG failure to influence the Muslim world and to anticipate developments there. He noted that the cost of improving USG broadcasting in the area in an effort to increase our influence though expensive would be far cheaper than the cost of military alternatives if we fail to influence the Muslim world in a way which will avoid conflict. Virtually all of the broadcasting proposals were approved at least in principle. Discussion centered around the problem of host government approvals for U.S. broadcast time on local facilities or the establishment of new USG transmitters.

In a discussion of Persian language broadcasting, Brzezinski asked Carlucci about the BBC service in light of its notoriety before the fall of the Shah. Carlucci asked me to prepare a note for Brzezinski on this.

At the end of the portion of the meeting devoted to U.S. Government broadcasting, Brzezinski noted that FBIS reporting on the Muslim world is inadequate, that FBIS reporting in connection with the Mecca incident and its repercussions was very thin. He said Carlucci should make decisions to improve FBIS coverage of the Muslim world. Carlucci replied that this raised the question of resources. Brzezinski said this was a reallocation problem for Frank, that if the Agency has to do more in one area it will simply have to do less in another, indicating that the Agency would not get additional resources for this purpose. Carlucci then asked me to give him a memo describing how FBIS would reallocate its resources to respond to Dr. Brzezinski's requirement. [redacted] will draft this memo after consultation with the group chiefs. (cc: AC/Ops, C/Prod, C/AG, C/E&PS) [redacted]

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